Export of Agricultural and Plantation Products

517. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the export of agricultural and plantation products during the last three years;

(b) what are the details of steps taken by Government to increase these exports;

(c) whether Government are considering to increase exports of fruits and flowers; and

(d) if so, what are the details of steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The details of exports of agricultural and plantation products are given below:—

Year	Exports (Rs. Crores)
1990-91	5058.69
1991-92	6254.13
1992-93	7269.44

(*Source*: DGCI&S, Calcutta & ISGIEIC, New Delhi).

(b) In the Export Import Policy 1992—97 special attention is being paid to the growth of exports in the agricultural sector. The establishment of Export Oriented Units (EOUs) in this sector is specially encouraged. Units engaged in agriculture, floriculture, horticulture, etc. can now avail of the benefits of duty-free imports even if they export only 50% of their production. They can sell the remaining 50% in the domestic market as against the limit of 25% for the non-agricultural sector. The definition of "capital goods" under the Policy has been expanded to include capital goods used in agriculture and allied activities, so that units engaged in this sector can avail of the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme for importing their equipment at a concessional rate of duty. Furthermore, certain inputs and materials required by the agricultural sector, such as edible was for waxing fresh fruits and vegetables, grape guard paper, dipping oil for treatment of grapes etc. have been removed from the negative list of imports so that they can now be freely imported without a licence.

(c) and (d) To promote exports of agricultural products including fresh fruits and vegetables, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has taken up a number of steps which include increasing production and productivity, promotion of market development, dissemination of market information amongst exporters, development of infrastructural facilities improvement in packing, improvement in shelf-life etc.

Indo-US Trade Relations

518. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the trend in the trade between India and US during the last three years;

(b) what are the irritants in the trade relation between the two countries; and

(c) what are the details of the efforts being made to improve India's trade relations with US?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) India's trade with the United States during the last three years has been as under:

(Value in Rs. crores)

Year	Indian exports to the US	Indian imports from the US	Balance of trade
1990-91	4795.52	5236.98	(−) 441.46
1991-92	7201.69	4919.38	(+)2282.31
1992-93	10106.07	6147.20	(+)3958.87